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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia: draft resolution

The International Year of Older Persons, 1999

The General Assembly,

Recalling its Proclamation on Ageing,[1] in which, *inter alia*, it designated the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

Recalling also the conceptual and operational frameworks for the International Year,[2]

Convinced of the need to implement the International Plan of Action on Ageing[3] and to promote adherence to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons,[4]

Mindful of its resolution 40/30, of 29 November 1985, in which it expressed its conviction that older persons must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 47/5, annex.

[2] A/50/114 and A/52/328.

[3] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July–6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI.

[4] General Assembly resolution 46/91.

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Mindful also of the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[5] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[6] the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[7] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[8] and the Habitat Agenda,[9] adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements,

Aware that on the eve of the twenty-first century, the ageing of individuals and populations, unprecedented in the history of humankind, is having far-reaching effects on the way societies organize themselves, on relationships between the generations in families and communities, on the entire course of individual lives, and on the terms, images and roles of older persons in their societies,

Mindful of the necessity to include a gender dimension in the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons,

Wishing to promote investments in human development over the entire lifespan and in preserving and supporting age-integrated social institutions,

Convinced that moving towards a society for all ages will require policies that simultaneously strengthen both individual lifelong development into late life, focused on self-help and independence, and, relatedly, enabling environments of families, neighbourhoods, communities of interest and broad societal institutions based on principles of reciprocity and interdependence,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful launching of the International Year of Older Persons, with the theme "A society for all ages", on 1 October 1998 around the world and at United Nations Headquarters by the Secretary-General;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable report of the Secretary-General entitled "Preparations for the International Year of Older Persons",[10] including its exploration of a society for all ages, presented for further debate by national committees and others;

3. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and all other actors, in reaching out for a future society for all ages, to take advantage of the International Year of Older Persons so as to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies, the individual and social needs of older persons, the contributions of older persons to society, and the need for a change in attitudes towards older persons;

4. *Welcomes* the activities relating to older persons undertaken by States, United Nations organizations and bodies and non-governmental organizations devoted to raising awareness, networking, reaching out and looking ahead beyond 1999;

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[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] *Report of the World Conference on Human Rights* (A/CONF.157/24), part I.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] A/53/294.

5. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish a national focal point or broad-based committee for the Year and re-emphasizes that activities for the Year should be initiated primarily at the national level;

6. *Welcomes* the redesignation of the intergovernmental Support Group as the Consultative Group and invites it to continue its contributions to the observance of the Year;

7. *Recommends* that the Commission for Social Development should mainstream the issue of older persons in the work of the Commission and in the preparatory work for the review session of the World Summit for Social Development in the year 2000;

8. *Calls upon* States, United Nations agencies and bodies and institutions of civil society, including the research community, to avoid age and gender bias in their treatment of older women in order to ensure that all older women have equal access to the private sector and to social services and to ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

9. *Encourages* States to embody the rights of older persons to equal access to and the use of social services, including care-giving systems and support services, without any discrimination, in appropriate legislation;

10. *Urges* that the issue of older persons be mainstreamed in the work of the United Nations and national socio-economic programmes and plans, as appropriate;

11. *Invites* national committees to consider the desirability of drawing up:

(a) A set of principles for a society for all ages;

(b) Practical strategies for a society for all ages, aimed at mainstreaming ageing into programmes and policies, while ensuring that the immediate developmental, income-security and health-care needs of older persons are met;

12. *Invites* national and international development entities, foundations and enterprises to explore ways of improving older persons' access to credit, training and appropriate technologies for income generation and their participation in family, community and small businesses;

13. *Also invites* the five-year review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to examine the implications of individual and population ageing;

14. *Also invites* the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its information campaign, intensifying, as feasible, its activities in January 1999 in support of countries that were unable to launch observances on 1 October 1998;

15. *Recommends* that research agendas for the next decades address the socio-economic adjustments required to move towards a society for all ages, entailing, essentially, the lifelong and society-wide, immediate and long-term implications of individual and population ageing within varied national contexts, and, requests the United Nations programme on ageing to give priority attention to the research needs of developing countries;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers and organizations of older persons to evaluate the contributions of senior volunteers in creating societies for all ages, in keeping with each country's traditions, resources and aspirations;

17. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable role of the media in the preparations for the International Year and in raising awareness of it, and encourages the media, consistent with freedom of expression, to present non-stereotyped images of older persons;

18. *Invites* those institutions of civil society that are playing a vital role at the local, national and international levels in promoting the Year to focus their observance of the International Day of Older Persons (1 October) in 1999 on the theme "Late-life potentials and contributions in a new age";

19. *Requests* States to participate, at an appropriate global policy-making level, in the four plenary meetings which it decided, in resolution 52/80 of 12 December 1997, should be devoted at its fifty-fourth session to the Year and its follow-up;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.